THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • OCTOBER 03, 2021 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

ZEE ENTERTAINMENT MOVES H.C. AGAINST EGM DEMAND

The company moved the Bombay HC, seeking it to declare the requisition for Extraordinary General Meeting illegal & invalid

ZEEL BOARD HAD REJECTED THE REQUEST

The development comes two days after the National Company Law Tribunal asked it to consider the request of minority shareholders — the US-based Invesco and OFI Global China Fund LLC — to hold EGM. ZEEL board met on Friday and rejected the request. The firm said the request did not comply with various company rules and SEBI guidelines

UNHAPPY WITH CEO, MERGER WITH SONY

- Invesco and OFI had moved the tribunal seeking the removal of ZEEL chief executive and managing director Punit Goenka and reconstitution of the board with the appointment of six directors
- They were also unhappy with the September 22 announcement on merger ZEEL's merger with Sony Pictures Network Ltd

17.88%
SHARES HELD BY INVESCO AND OFI IN ZEEL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

China has upped PLA troops along LAC: Army chief

Says Indian Army is keeping a tab on Chinese troop movements, ready for any eventuality

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over China increasing its troop presence along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and the eastern sector, Army chief General M M Naravane on Saturday said the Indian Army was monitoring the situation and was capable of handling any eventuality.

"China has deployed troops in considerable numbers across eastern Ladakh and the northern front right up to our Eastern command. Definitely this increase in deployment in the forward areas remains a matter of concern for us," Gen Naravane said while talking to media persons in Leh. He was on a two-day visit to Ladakh to review the security situation and operational preparedness of the force.

"We are regularly monitoring all their movements. Based on inputs, we are also carrying out matching developments, both in terms of infrastructure and troop deployment to counter any threat. At the moment, we are quite well poised to meet any eventuality," the army chief said.

He expressed hope the sore points would be resolved during the 13th round of Corps Commander-level talks expected soon. It was after the 12th round of talks in August that troops disengaged from the Gogra heights.

Clashes between the two forces took place in May 2020 at Finger 4 on the north Bank of the Pangong Lake and it later spread to Hot Springs, Gogra and the Galwan Valley. There was also a standoff at Depsang and Demchok. The Indian Army did a precautionary deployment at the beginning of the tension along the 3,488 km-long LAC. India has also been developing its road infrastructure in the borders areas.

The Chinese have built permanent habitation and are sprucing up air force infrastructure on their side. Around 60,000 troops from both sides are deployed along the LAC and are supported by artillery, armoured tanks, missiles and other military equipment.

Earlier, the Army chief took part in a ceremony to unfurl a 1,000-kg handwoven khadi tricolour, the largest in the country, atop a high mountain overlooking the Leh valley to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti and the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. The flag was unfurled by Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur. It has been made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai and the Sura-Soi Engineer Regiment brought it to Leh and installed it at the top of the high mountains.

Indian Army deploys Howitzer Regiment

With China ramping up its arsenal along the LAC, India reciprocated by deploying its first K9-Vajra self-propelled Howitzer Regiment in the Ladakh sector. "We have now added an entire regiment, this will be really helpful," Army chief General MM Naravane said

PROTESTERS TARGET CHIEF MINISTERS' HOMES

The protesters laid siege to the residences of legislators and ministers in Punjab and Haryana, including the personal residence of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi in Kharar, and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's home in Karnal. The protesters ended the sit-in only after the government assured procurement from Sunday

Labourers move sacks of paddy grain from a waterlogged area after a rainfall at a wholesale grain market near Amritsar on Saturday. High moisture content increases the risk of damage in grains | PTI

After protests, Centre advances rice procurement

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a bid to calm the frayed nerves of agitating farmers in Punjab and Haryana, the Centre on Saturday said it would start paddy procurement in the two states from Sunday itself. The announcement came after day-long protests by angry farmers on Saturday, against the delay in procurement.

The decision was made after a meeting between Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey. Following the announcement, the farmers ended the dharna.

Rice procurement was to start on October 1 but was postponed to October 10 as moisture content in the crop was beyond permissible limits owing to recent heavy rains.

The protesters said they feared they would suffer if their crop was not purchased at the grain markets.

The paddy crop had started arriving in mandis and farmers feared that they would be forced to sell their crop below the minimum support price.

Farmers in Punjab protested outside residences of Channi, deputy chief minister O P Soni, Assembly Speaker Rana K P Singh, MLA Harjot Kamal, besides many other leaders.

In Haryana, protests were held outside the residences of Bharatiya Janata Party and Jannayak Janta Party leaders. Farmers pitched tents in front of Khattar's residence at Prem Nagar in Karnal and later hoisted the Bharatiya Kisan Union flag on the walls.

In Ambala, the police put up barricades to prevent the farmers from laying siege to the residence of BJP legislator Aseem Goel. Tight security arrangements were made outside the residence of state home minister Anil Vij.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha had on Friday asked the farmers to hold protests outside the residences of ministers and MLAs in both the states.

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

October 1: 62,86,379 doses
October 2: 65,27,196 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 90,42,59,810

NATIONWIDE	OCT 1	OCT 2
Fresh cases	26,727	24,354
Recoveries	28,246	25,455
Deaths	277	234

KARNATAKA	OCT 1	OCT 2
Fresh cases	589	636
Recoveries	704	745
Deaths	13	4

EXPRESS READ

B'luru may not see full vax coverage by Dec-end

Bengaluru: While the BBMP has covered 85 pc of Bengaluru's population with the first dose of the Covid vaccine until October 1, and only 47 pc with the second dose, it could be difficult to achieve 100 pc coverage by December-end | P3

Philippines' Duterte announces retirement

Manila: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday announced he was retiring from politics and dropping plans to run for V-P in next year's polls when his term ends, avoiding a legal battle with opponents.

Will win bypolls, says Siddaramaiah

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah exudes confidence that Congress will win both Sindagi and Hanagal Assembly constituencies, saying that there is "huge anti-incumbency" against the BJP in both seats. P4

HC TELLS NETFLIX TO BLOCK EPISODE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court has directed the popular streaming network Netflix to block the first episode of Series 1 of the documentary, 'Crime Stories: India Detective', titled "A Murdered Mother".

Issuing notices to Netflix Entertainment Services India and Minnow Films Ltd, Justice BM Shyam Prasad passed the interim order after hearing a petition filed by S Sridhar Rao, a resident of Subbannapalya here. The petitioner's counsel submitted that Sridhar Rao is undergoing trial for multiple offences, which include those punishable under Sections 302 and 307, 212, and 201 read with Section 34 of the IPC. The episode, "A Murdered Mother", contains visuals of interrogation of the petitioner and another.

He argued that the content prejudices the petitioner's defence, as it contains an interview recorded during the investigation and a recorded video of a purported confession. Apart from violating his privacy, the content, without any justification, exposes him to ridicule and harassment by the public, he argued. The petitioner said that he filed the suit against the respondents, along with an application for temporary injunction, before the Civil Court, but it only issued summons and emergent notices without considering that the delay in granting an interim order would defeat the purpose of the application and prejudice the petitioner's interest.

The episode is on OTT platform and is available for viewing to all registered users, which would put the petitioner to harassment, he pleaded.

MULE ON TRAIN

RPF women's team seizes ₹3.2 cr drug from passenger

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN one of the biggest drug busts made in the country on Railway premises, an all-woman team of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) on Friday seized 640 gm of the recreational drug Crystal Methamphetamine, worth nearly ₹3.2 crore, from a train passenger. He was arrested after he got down from the Prashanti Express at Hindupur station in the Bengaluru Railway Division.

The accused, with his backpack, after his arrest by the RPF

The 44-year-old passenger from Odisha was travelling in the general coach of the train with the drug, called Crystal Meth, concealed in his backpack, to be delivered in Odisha, said a top railway source. The popular party drug, also known as 'ice' or 'glass', is highly addictive and affects the central nervous system. Train No. 18464 had departed from Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna station to Bhubaneswar at 1.50 pm on October 1. A six-member team of RPF's Shakti unit, specially constituted for safety of women passengers, was patrolling on board, the source said. P5

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE SOUTHERN SUPERWOMAN
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

REMEMBERING BAPU

Visually-challenged students dressed as Mahatma Gandhi offer homage to the Father of the Nation on his birth anniversary in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHRIRAM BK

Will complete term, says Rajasthan CM

Amid rumblings in Punjab and Chhattisgarh Congress, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, who is facing a challenge from Sachin Pilot, said his government will not only complete its full term but also return to power

Amid buzz of change, Baghel made UP observer

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & EJAZ KAISER @ New Delhi/Raipur

AMID speculation of a change of guard in Chhattisgarh, the Congress high command on Saturday appointed Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel as a senior observer for the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The appointment amid infighting in the party has raised doubts over Baghel's continuation as the CM. The speculation over a leadership change is also because 20-odd state Congress legislators and leaders close to the CM are again camping in Delhi. Sources said they have been sent to act as a "pressure group" against any change of guard. While the MLAs cited "personal" reasons for their visit to Delhi, Baghel said there was no ban on the legislators from going anywhere. "It is not a political movement. They will visit and return," he added.

Sources said the legislators have not been able to meet the party high command to express their support for Baghel. They said the high command appears adamant on executing a change of guard in Chhattisgarh.

"Baghel may be replaced by TS Singhdeo. The appointment of Baghel as an observer is the first move," the sources said. Meanwhile, Singhdeo cited the political situation as an opportunity rather than a tug-of-war within the party as he reiterated that the high command had reserved its decision on leadership change.

A CHANGED LIFE

On power trip, but villagers of Pavagada divided into powerful and powerless

CHETANA BELAGERE & ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Pavagada

MUNIYAPPA Reddy, who once spent hours tilling his six-acre land, is today seen in an inebriated state most of the time and smoking under a banyan tree, while his wife and daughter cross the border to Andhra Pradesh to work as farm labourers. This is the story of several farm owners, who leased out their land to Shakti Sthala -- one of the biggest solar parks in Asia, at Pavagada taluk. But for the land taken on lease, the villages are given a "government dole", which comes in the form of the lease amount of ₹23,000 per acre per annum. The villages now boast of 24-hour power supply, pucca houses and good roads, but lack basic facilities like toilets and drinking water.

Those who do not own land are falling deeper into the debt trap. Unemployment has peaked in the area and labourers have to travel long distances to find work. In all, 12,800 acres of land at Vallur, Tirumani, Balasamudram, Kyatagancharulu and Rayacharulu villages of Pavagada taluk were acquired to set up the solar farm by the Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation (KSPDCL).

A large number of women from these border villages go to Andhra Pradesh to work in farms. "Every day, some 15 vehicles come to pick up workers, mostly women, who are taken to farms across the border. We are paid ₹200-300 per day," said Eshwaramma from Vallur. At times, they travel up to four hours to earn meagre sums. P6

SOLAR PARK FLARES
PART-2

Residents sit under a banyan tree at Kyatagancharulu village in Pavagada taluk | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Every day, some 15 vehicles come to pick up workers, mostly women, who are taken to farms in Andhra Pradesh.

Eshwaramma, resident, Vallur

BRIGHTSIDE
NEST OF LOVE
P2